

Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 SY-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 NSC-10 L-03 AF-10 SR-02 ORM-03 DRC-01 /145 W

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R 261625Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1543

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 11759

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SY SOCI SREF

SUBJECT: DAMASCUS JEWISH COMMUNITY

REF: STATE 203649; ROME 11135; PARIS 27748

1. ON OCTOBER 26 WE DISCUSSED STATE REFTEL WITH RESPONSIBLE ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL. OFFICIAL SAID THAT ITALIAN EMBASSY IN DAMASCUS HAD SIMPLY REPORTED THAT IT HAS RECEIVED NO RPT NO REPORT INDICATING PERSECUTION OF JEWS IN SYRIA.

2. OFFICIAL REMINDED US THAT ITALIAN AMBASSADOR HAD BEEN GIVEN FULL DISCRETION IN SEEKING INFORMATION RE SYRIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY. HE REMARKED THAT WAR DISRUPTION HAD OBVIOUSLY MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR ITALIAN EMBASSY TO DEVELOP INFORMATION ON SUBJECT. IN ADDITION, OFFICIAL INFORMED US THAT SYRIANS, AMONG OTHER ARABS, HAVE BEEN BADGERING ITALIANS CONTINUOUSLY ABOUT ALLEGED ITALIAN SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL DURING RECENT HOSTILITIES. SOURCE SAID THAT THESE ALLEGATIONS MADE ITALIAN RELATIONS WITH SARG DELICATE

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FOR THE MOMENT AND UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES IT WAS EXTREMELY

DIFFICULT FOR ITALIANS TO APPROACH SYRIANS ON JEWISH QUESTION.

3. OFFICIAL SAID ITALIANS TOO ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER
REPORTED SYRIAN ACTIONS AGAINST JEWS, HOWEVER, HE ASKED THAT
WE BE PATIENT AND HAVE UNDERSTANDING RE PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT
SITUATION FOR ITALIANS IN SYRIA AT PRESENT TIME. HE ASSURED
US THAT ITALIAN EMBASSY WOULD REPORT WHATEVER INFORMATION IT
DEVELOPED ON SITUATION OF SYRIAN JEWS AND HE WOULD KEEP US
INFORMED. VOLPE

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30 JUN 2005

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